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Sir P. Laurie on Puseyism
1843

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PUSEYISM :

OR,

AN ADDRESS

TO THE

WESLEYAN METHODISTS,

BY

SIR PETER LAURIE, ALD.

LONDON :

G. MANSELL, 2 & 3, KING STREET, BOROUGH.

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MEETING

Of the Wesleyan Missionary Society,

HELD AT THE

LONDON TAVERN, BISHOPSGATE STREET,

On Friday, May 12th, 1843,

ALDERMAN SIR PETER LAURIE,

IN THE CHAIR.

At a Public Breakfast of the above Society, held pursuant to advertisement, the worthy Alderman thus addressed a highly respectable auditory of more than one thousand persons.

“I have often taken the chair in this room at festivals, but never had the honor of seeing so large a company at breakfast. These religious meetings had a two-fold advantage, for while they promoted the civilization of the heathen, they tended to unite the

opinions of persons of different religious denominations at home. My observations will have reference to the latter branch.

“ I have been a strict observer of religious movements in the metropolis many years, but never saw religious parties so agitated as at this moment, occasioned by the lamentable schism in the Established Church. No one could tell now, which was the real Church of England.

“ On the south side of the Thames, where we had a pious bishop, we were taught to mark, learn, and inwardly digest. On the north side, to mark, learn, and outwardly conform ; and in that white and black charge (the Bishop of London's), they were desired to bow to the altar, and to turn to the east and the west, to the south and the north. Candles were to be placed on the communion table, provided they were not lighted, and the clergy were to wear white in the morning, and black in the evening.

“ The Wesleyan lay preachers were upon probation four years, and if any of them were to send forth such absurdities, I am sure they would not obtain ordination.

Many persons had said it signified not whether the preacher wears white or black, if the doctrine were

good. In that I perfectly agree, but in the rebellion in olden times in England, the white rose and the red rose were the emblems of particular parties ; and white and black were the emblems of distinct parties at this day. The Archbishop of Canterbury had in his charge advised the clergy against the introduction of novelties, or the revival of usages which had been discontinued, and which, having the appearance of novelties with the ignorant, would create dissatisfaction, dissension, and controversy.

“The Bishop of London in August compelled one of his clergy to discontinue preaching in white ; and in October, had in his charge recommended the wearing of that very colour. There appeared to be a conspiracy of a portion of the Church against the laity, denying to the laity the right of private judgment, and maintaining that the laity were made for the benefit of the clergy, and not, as I imagine, the clergy for the benefit of the laity.

“Where I live there are three Puseyite churches. The bells are constantly ringing, and the clergymen spent the time there which would be better devoted to visiting the sick, and to the benefit of the people in other ways. Puseyism has driven me from the church I have been accustomed to

attend. He had not only given up his seat, but discontinued his Easter-offering; and it was by buttoning up their breeches pockets that the flock would best show their dissatisfaction. Where there was formerly a difficulty in obtaining a sitting now placards two feet square, announced "Pews to let."

"Puseyism denied that what was given in alms by the laity was charity, and insisted that charity should be given only through the altar. A farmer in the country, hearing this laid down by his clergyman, asked him when it would be convenient to receive on the altar a sack of potatoes he wished to give to the poor.

"The question came to this—was the bible truly translated or not? If it were true, let them stand by it, as they hoped for eternal happiness, and not throw doubts upon it by suggesting that in the original the meaning is this or that. I have been a great admirer of the Church of England, and by a small livery company to which I now belong, the sum of £500. had been given to promote the erection of new churches, but this was for the Church of England as it was understood of the south side of the Thames. If it was for any other he would not vote five hundred farthings.

“ They were told they should be baptized by the apostolical succession, and that all who were out of the pale of the Church of England could have no hope of salvation. To them and other strong-minded persons this communication amounted to little, but to the weak-minded it was truly alarming. A poor woman was lately admitted to Bethlehem, and upon enquiring of her neice about the cause, she said her aunt had been baptized by a Dissenter, and considered herself lost.

The dignitaries of the Established Church, who condemned the very name of the Reformation, meanly continued to reap the various emoluments arising from it.”

Sir Peter was repeatedly cheered in the course of his speech.

The Rev. Mr. Priest, Dr. Morrison, the Rev. Mr. Maclean, and the Rev. Mr. Dove, afterwards addressed the crowded meeting.

Just Published for distribution, price one halfpenny, or one
shilling the hundred;

WHAT IS PUSEYISM?

THE QUESTION ANSWERED BY PUSEYITES

Being a selection from many celebrated authors who have written
in defence of Puseyism.

“Take heed what ye hear.”—Mark iv. 24.

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